

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Douglas Spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*)

Distribution

Douglas Spirea also known as Hardhack is distributed throughout western North America from Alaska down through the Pacific Northwest into California.

Growth Habit

Douglas Spirea is a deciduous shrub with an upright growth habit. It can grow from 3 to 8 feet tall, with an approximately equal spread. It can spread by seed and underground runners, creating large thickets.

Adaptability

Douglas Spirea is adapted to grow in a wide range of conditions. It grows in sun or shade, in damp, marshy sites, or rocky open upland areas. It is found growing from sea level to mid elevation forests. It is not well suited to dense shade or very arid sites.

Comments

- Douglas Spirea is readily identified by its spiky pink flower clusters in summer and stalks of brown seed clusters that persist through winter.
- It is an outstanding conservation species and is adapted to a wide range of sites.
- Its rhizomatous root system help make it a good soil stabilizer.
- It also provides wildlife habitat, and is a common riparian species.

